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WE DO NOT SHIP RETAIL.

Our varieties are tested thru three generations before they are released for sale. Once in a while one variety will not do the same as the original seedling and we regret this and try to eliminate the variety. Our plants are well known for their trueness and constantly being the top winners in shows. We are now working on more vivid reds and do have some that seem promising, but they will not be ready for release for at least two years. We develop plants that grow well for the people who grow them as well as here in the greenhouse.

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MAGAZINE

Vol. 28, Number 5

November, 1975

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Knoxville, Tennessee 37901	Date
are defined below. Mempership year March	Violet Society of America. Inc. My dues are enclosed, Memberships 1 to February 28 includes five issues of THE AFRICAN VIOLET ollowed by September, November, January and March issues.
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	w members may pay half the annual dues, will receive memberary and Mar'h issues of THE AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE. \$3.00.

ABOUT THE COVER

Pictured on the cover page is a lovely new African violet named 'Faith' by Granger Gardens of Medina, OH. Outstanding as a pure white full double ruffled bloom held high above dark quilted foliage. 'Faith' was one of Granger's new seedlings making a breathtaking display at the Boston convention.

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Richardson, Paul Arnold, Mrs. W. M.
Plaster, Mrs. Talbot Freie and Mrs.
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NOTICE TO POSTMASTER:

Please send notification regarding unde-liverable magazines to office address. African Viole Society of America, Inc. P. O. Box 1326, Knoxville, TN 37901.

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ALWAYS GIVE YOUR NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS. IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE ITEM SEND EACH ITEM TO THE CORRECT PERSON.

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AFFILIATES: See list in Nov. issue. For information on show awards, how to start a chapter or questions on new or renewal membership, write Mrs. Talbot A. Freie, 4854 N. Cedar St., El Monte, CA 91732. Send officer information sheet received with charter to Mrs. Freie by July 1.

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BYLAWS: See September issue.

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AWARDS: See January issue. Send suggestions or contributions for convention awards to Mrs. Richard A. Chase, 482 Rutherford Ave., Redwood City, CA 94061

PROGRAM: See March issue. Send special requests for workshop programs; suggest names of interesting speakers to Mrs. Ross V. Lahr, 3559 E. Easter Ave., Littleton, CO 80120

SCHEDULE: See January issue.
TIME AND PLACE: If your club or a group of clubs would like to sponsor a national convention in your area, write to Mrs. H. Harold Baker, 2182 Stanford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105

CULTURE FOLDERS: Free from AVSA office, for distribution at shows or by commercial members with plants. Membership application included.

CUMULATIVE INDEX: Write AVSA Office.

EDITOR: Mrs. Grace Foote, 211 Allien Pl., Port Arthur, TX 77640

HONOR ROLL: See June issue

JUDGES: See November issue for list.

JUDGING SCHOOL: For information on holding a school or to become a qualified judge, write to Mrs. Ruth Carey, 3900 Garden Dr., Knoxville, TN 37918

LIBRARY: See June issue for list of slide programs and packets available from AVSA Library. Order from AVSA office. If you have ideas for a library program or slides to donate for library, write Mrs. Marvin Garner, 1010 Edgewood S.E., North Canton, OH 44720

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MAGAZINE:

ADVERTISING MANAGER: For advertising rates, copy and information write Mrs. Edward A. Nelson, 603 E. Essex Ave., St. Louis, MO 63122

ARTICLES: Send to Editor.

DEADLINE DATES: June issue, Mar. 1; Sept. issue, June 1; Nov. issue, Aug. 1; Jan. issue, Oct. 1; Mar. issue, Dec. 1.

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A must for all judges and serious growers. 1970 edition describes all registered varieties 1948 - 1969; all classified species; other named cultivars introduced 1960-69. \$3.50 Order from AVSA office. Supple-

ments, September magazine, 1970 to date. SUPPLEMENT: Send description of any new cultivar with hybridizer's name to Mrs. Fred Tretter, 4988

Schollmeyer Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109

MEMBERSHIP! Send new or renewal membership to AVSA Treasurer, AVSA office. Make check payable to AVSA. Life - \$100; Commercial - \$15; Individual -\$6; Affiliate Chapter — \$6; Affiliate Council, State or Region — \$15. FOR AFFILIATE, GIVE THE FOL-LOWING INFORMATION: Name of chapter or council; President's name and address; address to which magazine is to be sent; name of town considered home town of chapter.

APPLICATIONS AND BROCHURES: Free from AVSA office. Please state quantity required. Use for show, commercial sales room or wherever member-

ships may be solicited.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send your ideas, offers to help or requests for assistance in this work to Mrs. John Lackner, 580 E. County Road, B-2, Little Canada, MN 55117

MINIATURE AND SEMI-MINIATURE LIST: \$2.00 Mrs. Sidney Bogin, 39 Boyd St., Long Beach, NY 11561

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT: See Jan. issue. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES: See June issue.

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RESEARCH: Send suggested subjects for scientific re-search or names of interested qualified potential research personnel to Mr. Frank Tinari, 2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

TALLY TIME: See March issue.

TEACHERS: See November issue for list.

TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORT: See Sept. issue.

Message From The President's Corner



Dear AVSA Friends:

As I am writing this, it is the end of July. While most of our violet shows have already been held, we do have a number of fall shows and county fair shows to look forward to.

Yesterday I judged at the San Mateo Floral Fiesta (a perfectly beautiful county fair show). There were two excellent African violet educational exhibits by AVSA affiliates; one by the San Mateo County African Violet Society and the other by the two-year-old African Violet Society of Palo Alto. Both exhibits were large, comprehensive displays of African violets including species and other gesneriads, soil mixes, plant foods, insecticides, instructions on the various phases of culture. There were violets from leaf cuttings through all the various stages of growth to large show plants—different types of violets, miniatures, variegated foliage, trailers! What a wealth of information and all so beautifully displayed. Enough there to keep one entranced for several hours. What a wonderful opportunity for a novice grower, a beginner, to learn how to grow African violets. And what a wonderful way for a local club to spread their enthusiasm and love for violets. And what a great opportunity also to let the public know about our AVSA and its fine magazine.

Such a tremendous outburst of interest in African violets, especially among the younger people, and that makes us particularly happy. Let's encourage our younger members in our local clubs – we want and need their new ideas.

You will be reading this in November and we will all be getting ready for Thanksgiving and then the Christmas holidays. There is usually a little lull in our violet activity as we plan the holiday festivities. As we are thankful for our wonderful hobby of African violets, let's share this happiness with others. What finer gift can you give a friend than a lovely plant and a membership in AVSA—a gift that will remind the recipient during the entire year of your thoughtfulness. To make it easy for you to do this, see page 5.

And we should be deciding right now to attend the Atlanta Convention next April 29-30, May 1. Great plans are under way for this very special occasion – AVSA's 30th anniversary! It just takes a little thinking ahead on your part and you will be there, right in the midst of all the exciting happenings!

Very best wishes to you all for a happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Christmas.

Sincerely,

Edith

SPREAD VIOLET HAPPINESS

Give a friend The African Violet Maga-

zine for Christmas this year.

A gift membership in the African Violet Society of America, Inc., will bring year-long pleasure and a constant reminder of your thoughtfulness.

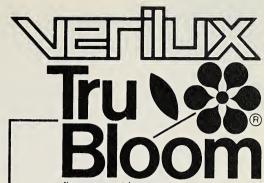
A special card, with a picture of a beautiful African violet in color, will be sent to inform new members that they will receive five issues of The African Violet Magazine and membership from March 1, 1976 through February 28, 1977 as your gift. As a special bonus, copies of the January issue will be sent to the first 100 new members.

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Musings from the "Mini-Mam"

Mrs. Sidney (Ellie) Bogin Chr. Miniature and Semimini Class 39 Boyd Street Long Beach, NY 11561

With the new Miniature and Semiminiature Variety List out, I thought I would comment on some of my favorites, some new, some old.

Plants I wouldn't be without:

'Tiny Gypsy' - I've had over twenty of these

lovely fantasy blooms open at one time.

'Little Precious' - A fairly new one for me and delightful. It is always covered with full fantasy double blooms. They don't stand up but are in profusion.

'Mini-Mignon' - It always has at least twelve perky blooms standing high above the foliage

which shapes itself.

'Cradle Song' - The beautiful new lavender geneva from Ernie Fisher of Canada. The blooms also stand up high and the geneva edge is good.

'Ace Snoopy' - Dark blue huge doubles against

a light green foliage.

'Peepers' - Huge, and I mean huge, high standing medium pink doubles on a flat girl foliage.

'Blue Sprite' - Now changed to a miniature. An unusual light blue. Very, very prolific, on dark pointed foliage. Always in bloom.

'Tiny Ellie' - Of course! Those bright pink

doubles against that dark, dark foliage!

BERRY'S AFRICAN VIOLETS

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER-Think about giving violet supplies for gifts. Have everything a person needs to grow African violets; also plants -2 and 3 shelf stands with lights-24" and 48" table model lights with legs-Spot-O-Sun lamp-all sizes in Grolux bulbs or Wide Spectrum—Blue Whale & Sturdy Fertilizer for healthier plants and larger blooms-Volkmann's Soil, Constant Feed Fertilizer, Reservoir Wick Pots, Aquamatic Planters. Moist Rite Pots, Elisa's Violet Rings for leaf support—all sizes in plastic pots and trays. Will ship the following books postpaid: The Helen Van Pelt Wilson's African Violet Book (hardback) \$9.25 ppd., (paperback) \$4.50 ppd.; The 1976 Astrological Calendar For Best Planting Dates \$1.85 ppd. Texas residents add 5% sales tax.

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MRS. J. S. BERRY

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'Miniature Valentine' and 'Miniature Flame' stay tiny and although the blossoms are not large, when you have thirty of them on a tiny plant it doesn't matter.

I am looking forward to the performance of such new ones: 'Midget Mischief' (Champion), 'Cinderella' (The Flower Pot), 'Pink Bonnet', 'Donderwitz', (Obtained from Ernie Fisher), 'Delicatesse', 'Petite Lise', 'Pommade' (Larochelle), 'Knee High', 'Tidee Bug', 'Frisky', (Lyon), and 'Nooroo' (Australia).

I have been trying to get a plant of 'Mini-Mam' by Mrs. E. Kramer, but so far have not been suc-

The new updated Miniature and Semiminiature Variety & Culture List is now available. Please make any check or money order out to AVSA. The price if \$2.00. If you still wish the 1974 supplement to complete your set, please let me know.

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CORRECTIONS

NYMPH FLY (1897) Changed from miniature to semi miniature

CIRCUS BOY (2615) changed from semi miniature to standard.

CONVENTION DATES

1976 — Atlanta, GA. Sheraton-Biltmore Hotel, April 27-May 1.

1977 – St. Louis, MO. Chase Park Plaza Hotel, April 26 - 30.

1978 - Austin, TX. Driskill Hotel, April 13

1979 – Denver, CO. Albany Hotel, June 6 - 9. 1980 – New Orleans, LA

Watery Wonders, Or?

Christine D. Leppard 413 Washington Street Westfield, NJ 07090

Underwater arrangements are appearing more and more frequently in local shows. Although there is a difference, bubble bowls and underwater arrangements will be used interchangeably in most schedules. To some extent the popularity of these arrangements grew out of commercial use of the "bowl of beauty." People have always realized and appreciated the magnifying effect of water on plant material as in an aquarium or still pond. Somehow the mysterious illusion of size and depth created by the water enhances the same arrangement were it exhibited as a "mini" - which it should be completely capable of doing since anything put into a bowl or goblet must be an arrangement before it goes into the water (or the water into it - as the case may be). Just sticking a blossom or two, a piece of foliage, and maybe an interesting twig together does not create the arrangement that is to be judged within the water. Yes, the water creates a certain extra dimension - one of the accomplishments we enjoy. But . . . and this is a big but . . . just because the creation is in the water doesn't create the design. The scale of points allows 35 points for design alone, and these points

are readily lost if design is not well thought out.

At the 1974 AVSA Convention at Hartford the subject of how to judge bubble bowls and underwater arrangements came up. Should they be viewed from all sides? How can judges see all sides if the bowls are backed up against a wall? Should points be deducted under staging for the Standard Show Award if the bowls can't be seen from the back? Or, are these arrangements properly judged viewed from the front only — as a niche? Should the Staging Chairman place the bowls where the judges can judge from all sides, then possibly move the table later for public viewing?

After an interesting discussion, it was agreed by most that the Schedule Committee has responsibility for stating whether the arrangement within the bowl or goblet should be viewed from all sides, or from the front only. Then the Staging Chairman must place them as stated in the schedule, and the judges will know how to do their work. So, depending on the club's wishes - anything goes, as long as it is clearly spelled out in the schedule, the

law of the show.

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underwater arrangements in their lovely containers makes a great contribution to a show. They do lend themselves to being seen from all sides - something that cannot be done with most arrangements. It is more difficult to stage something so that it can be walked around, and it is also more difficult to design an all-sides arrangement; but if done properly, it should be a really visually-pleasing effect which would contribute to any show.

Judging the underwater arrangement should be no different from judging any other arrangement. The same point schedule is used. Technically, there is to be a small bubble at the top of the bubble bowl; and in goblets everything must be covered by the water. If the bubble is too large, or if plant material sticks out of the top of the water in the goblet, then points are taken off under distinction, originality, and condition, as indicated.

The bowl or goblet itself should be polished to within an inch of its life. The water must be transparent. Water from dehumidifiers, distilled water, or cooled, boiled tap water can all produce good results. Tempting though it may be, water from the tap can produce too many bubbles, or it may contain chlorine which will immediately begin to turn the blossoms brown. This is not to say that a delicate presence of bubbles should penalize an exhibit. Judges should not deduct points if bubbles are present. But, don't you agree that a whole bowlful of bubbles - on the sides of the glass, on the foliage, everywhere - just is not as magically beautiful as the completely clean bowl with only the most delicate edging of bubbles on the arrange-

Another important item to bear in mind is mechanics. Mechanics can show to some extent if they don't detract. Since water magnifies, any mechanic showing will be magnified too. Any tubes or straws will detract unless most skillfully used. Some bowls contain a pinholder which also should be covered. It is much better to be safe and cover mechanics, and not too difficult to have the exhibit finished on all angles - no matter how staged.

When assembling the arrangement, give it a gentle shake just before immersing. You can save yourself a lot of time beforehand rather than having to reopen the bowl, fish out the wayward leaf, and pray that the arrangement holds up.

Care with the blossoms is paramount since just brushing the edge of a bloom will damage the tiny cells and that is where browning or that clear, mushy look will start first. Handle gently by the stems as much as possible. Do not crush the stem, and use a new razor blade for trimming.

Another trick is to remember that a bud will look bigger under the water. (Remember this for scale and proportion.) Buds will generally hold up much longer than the full bloom and will be more attractive for the public. Other arrangements and artistic plantings can have a terribly withered bloom removed if needed . . . there isn't anything you can do with a bad bubble bowl except hope that someone will drape a napkin over it! The bubble bowls always hold much fascination for the public. But if there is dirty water, rotting plant material, or floating pieces, you've got an eyesore that may have to be removed before the show closes. Use a little extra time and care in doing your underwater arrangement and save the Staging Chairman having to make that decision.

Last, but not least, don't be frightened off because you don't own a bubble bowl. The goblets, brandy snifters, and other glassware you might have at home will work just as well. And once you get the knack of it, you will never have to worry about flowers for the table in the dead of winter. All your particular arrangement may need might be three blossoms which can come right from your plant room. Furthermore, your arrangement will fit nicely on a bridge table or as a unique centerpiece. For a special effect sometime, try adding a trailing ribbon the same color as the blossoms under the bowl. With remarkable ease you can create the perfect conversation piece of a gracious hostess because you always have our favorite flower on view- the African violet.



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Mrs. J. A. W. (Ann) Richardson RR #1, Box 70 Tavares, FL 32778

MUCH ABOUT LEAVES

Leaves are the barometer of a plant. There is much talk about talking to our plants but I believe that they talk to us. Ignore what they tell you in advance and you will wish you had paid attention. For instance, wilted leaves can mean either of two things: Too much water or too little. If your plant is sopping wet and the leaves have a gray lifeless look, repot it into dry soil or mix and keep it dry for a few days, then start to give it water sparingly for a few days after which you can start to water in the regular way except that you should not be as generous as before. Glassy looking leaves also show over generosity with water. Of course, with too little water, the plant will be dry as a bone. Don't feel guilty and drown it by giving it lots of water at one time. Give it sips of water three times a day and then go back to your regular watering system except in this case you will be more generous with water.

Leaves will also tell you about diseases. Any unnatural looking leaves should be looked at closely preferably with a microscope. It is also a good idea to knock the plant out of the pot and have a good look at what is going on in the root system. Leaves that have marks on the bottom may simply be because they are resting on the rim of the pot which is sharp or they may be damage caused by thrips (an insect).

The health of a plant is reflected in the look of its leaves just as your skin will reflect the state of your health. Green healthy looking leaves that obviously are glowing with vigor show you are doing the right things. Droopy, grey, glassy leaves are telling you that they are not being treated right. Do something about it! Don't wait until the plant has died and then blame the plant.

So much has been said about not getting water on the leaves for fear of causing brown spots that there is a tendency to avoid water on leaves at all costs. The secret is not to allow the sun to shine on the leaves until they are dry. Actually, leaves just love to be misted or washed. Holding the plant sidewise, allow lukewarm water to flow over the leaves as you turn the plant so that all the outer leaves are washed. The inner ones do not need washing as, being new, they are usually clean. Washing the inner leaves may result in gray leaves which will rot before they can dry out. Should the inner ones get wet gently dry them with a soft, well wrung out sponge. Excess water on the outer leaves can be treated the same way. Proper humidity will also result in nice green leaves.

Cold water can cause eventual spots on leaves so be sure to use either room temperature water or add a little hot water if you are taking it from the cold water tap.

Too much light or too strong light can turn leaves yellow or may cause the center leaves to curl and the petioles to shorten so much that the blossoms can hardly push through.

Happy leaves will reward you with lots of blossoms — and blue ribbons,

Best Seedlings

Irene Fredette Is Hybridizer

Hybridizer of the two best seedlings at the Boston AVSA convention, 'Velvet Ribbons' and 'Winter Grape', was Irene Fredette, 972 Grassy Hill Road, Orange, CT 06477.

The seedlings were pictured on page 44 of the September African Violet Magazine and credit was given to Jean Dolan of Stony Creek, CT, as the hybridizer. The caption should have read: "Best seedling and second best seedling, hybridized by Irene Fredette and exhibited by Jean Dolan." Ms. Dolan was given exhibition rights by Ms. Fredette to show them at the convention. Ms. Dolan does not hybridize.

Mrs. Fredette is planning to register both 'Velvet Ribbons' and 'Winter Grape'. Our sincere apologies to Mrs. Fredette for this error.

Spraying Violets

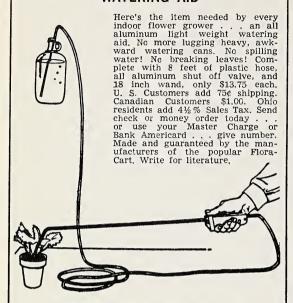
Some feel a regular spray program should be maintained to be free of insect pests. Don't overdo it though if you follow this theory. Be careful with the aerosol sprays. More harm can be done with their improper use than caused by the pests.



"ALONG THE ERIE CANAL" Exhibited by Cordelia Rienhardt with violet 'Top Dollar' arranged with Scotch pine sprayed and Manda's crested Ivy. Scene centered on a sea captain figurine. (Photo by Burton)

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Yule Tree of African Violets

Royce A. Currie Rt. 6, Box 108-A Pulaski, TN 38478

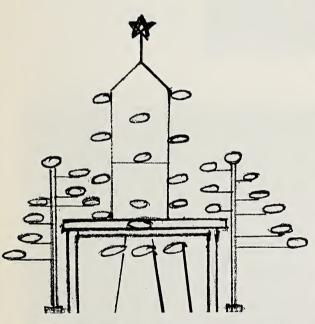
It was just a few days before Christmas and Mrs. Cora Lee Currie of 105 East F Street in Anniston, AL was expecting her two great grandsons to spend the holidays with her.

They arrived - but were they disappointed to find she had no tree under which to put gifts for

the family!

So, to be different Mrs. Currie decided she'd have a living Christmas tree - made solely of blooming African violet plants.

It wasn't long before she'd designed what she wanted. Here's a peek at the structure underneath the "tree".



The structure of the "tree" consisted simply of a piano bench, with a tall pot stand on top, a short pot stand in front, a plant stand with movable arms located on each side of the bench, and various ceramic compotes and candelabra grouped and adjusted for the height, width, and shape.

Decorations consisted of tinsel, rope, colored balls and twelve Christmas birds. Mrs. Currie fashioned the angel and star especially for the tree.

Forty-one (41) specially selected smaller plants were on display in the "tree". Daily evaluation and rotation provided an opportunity for quite a few



YULE TREE - How about an African violet tree for the holiday season instead of the old-fashioned Christmas tree? Mrs. Cora Lee Currie is shown with her "Living Christmas Tree", fashioned of African violet plants.

additional plants to participate (by doing their blooming best) during the holiday season.

Mrs. Currie is 74 years of age and lives alone. Her violets provide much joy and satisfaciton.

The Violet Tree made such a hit with the family that she made it again this past Christmas. Many of her friends dropped by to see her unusual and beautiful tree last year during the holiday season as it was a "first" for them.

Mrs. Currie has more than 1,000 African violets, including many varieties, and loves every minute she spends taking care of them.

MORE SPECIAL AWARDS

Three more special awards for named varieties are to be available at the Atlanta convention, according to Celine Chase, Awards Chairman. The awards will be presented for the two named violets, 'Serenity' and 'Ann Slocomb' and the episicia,

The other two awards, listed in the September magazine, are for the violets, 'Edith Peterson' and 'Grace Foote'.

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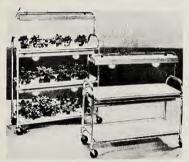
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1954—Mrs. E. L. Perdue, Donaldson, Tennessee
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1958—Mrs. Edarence Kuder, Bowling Green, Chini
1959—Mrs. Clarence Kuder, Bowling Green, Chini
1964—Mrs. Alexander K. Colyer, Brightwaters, New York
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1967—Mrs. Karl, C. Ohlon, Iyan, Massachusetts
1968—Mrs. Walloce Behnke, Neward, Delaware
1971—Mrs. and Mrs. John Gertaleg, Sun City, California
1973—Mrs. Irene Fiedler, Prescott, Wisconsin
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Question Box



By Anne Tinari, Tinari Greenhouses 2325 Valley Road, Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 19006

Dear Anne:

I'll bet you never heard such a story. Every morning I examine my African violets, turning them around, caring for them when suddenly I noticed under the blossoms of a heavy flowering double ruffled blue violet, there appeared a bright lemon yellow growth. I couldn't believe my eyes! Placing my hand to the object I discovered a bright yellow toad stool. I immediately pulled it out and held it in my hand wondering why? Why was this growing in with my African violets in my kitchen window?

ANSWER: As I read your letter, I too, held my breath hoping, too, the brilliant yellow object could possible be a yellow African violet blossom. However, you no doubt are using an organic soil mix and it is very possible a small spore could produce a common yellow toad stool, if soil conditions were right. These are seen very frequently in and around compost piles and, yes, even under greenhouse benches, usually on the north side where moss often grows. Make sure you are using a pasteurized soil which will help eliminate this problem.

Q. Enclosed is a leaf of 'Triple Threat'. Is this the red disease mentioned in a recent issue of AVSA? Looking closer I find many others have a deep red reverse on the leaf. Could this be a virus?

A. Your leaf seems to be in apparently good robust health. It is quite common for a good plant like 'Triple Threat', given the proper care, should have such robust leaves and red reverse under them. I am so sorry this new threat has alarmed so many people who have misinterpreted other symptoms that were mentioned and believe all red-backed plants may be diseased.

Regarding virus on African violets, this has never been proven and I am told by one pathologist virus infested plants do not appear sick at one period and then suddenly take on new growth and normal pattern. A virus will remain with the plant causing destruction, not only of the plant itself, but the offspring and very un-normal growth patterns and other problems. We are very fortunate with African violets that we are not affected with many more diseases so prevalent in hundreds of other types of plants.

Q. Dear Anne...Could you tell me the difference between a rooted cutting, a rooted leaf and a leaf cutting?

A. In my opinion a rooted cutting and a rooted leaf are one and the same, having fibrous roots and plantlets attached. A leaf cutting is a plain cut leaf with no root growth.

Q. Why is soil pH so important?

A. One of the most important factors in dealing with plant growth is the proper control of pH. It has both direct and indirect effects on the growth of the plant.

An unfavorable balance of the pH can be critical, resulting in a soil that is too acid or too alkaline and can cause a direct toxic effect on the plants.

Q. Dear Anne... Imagine how horrified I was in finding plants from a reputable grower infested with mite. I don't understand this. It has never happened before. What should I do about it?

A. My dear, it can happen. A commercial grower is not exempt or immune from disease. However, I have never had a conversation with one who is not very deeply concerned about such matters and strives with all the knowledge and knowhow available to maintain a clean program.

Disease is a luxury no commercial grower can afford. It causes great monetary losses and ill-feeling. My advice would be to go directly to the source, discuss the problem and I feel this procedure would be a real help to all those concerned.

Q. I have learned that African violets like rain water, but am told it should be boiled before using to kill any harmful bacteria. Is this true?

- A. I would advise boiling rain water in areas where there is high pollution concentration, or if rain is caught where harmful roof or run-off material may cause an unusually high concentration of corrosive materials. Rain water should be brought to a rolling boil, at which time most of the harmful bacteria will have been destroyed.
- Q. The species intrigue .ne. Where can they be obtained?

- A. You will note in the March 1975 magazine on page 11, there is an ad by Albert G. Kriegar, 1063 Cranbrook, Jackson, Michigan 49201 and also as I have stated many times at the firm of J. A. Peterson & Sons, Cincinnati, OH species are advertised.
- Q. My husband and I will retire in the fall to a Greek island in the Eastern Mediterranean. My hobby will be growing African violets. Since plants are not permitted into the country, where can I obtain African violet seed of different varieties.
- A. The following seed sources are available: In the June 1975 issue of AV magazine on page 9, there is an ad by Ronn Nadeau listing seed available from specific varieties. This may be your best choice for varieties. Then too, the W. Atlee Burpee Co., Box 6929, Philadelphia, PA 19132 and the Geo. W. Park Seed Co., Greenwood, SC 29646 also list seed in their current seed catalogs.
- Q. I continually read about sphagnum moss being a sterile substance. Does this include the living bog moss which I use for my orchids and other plants with great success? I would be afraid to use it with the assumption it is sterilized to the point that it can be used for plants such African violets with the fear of nematodes, etc.

Also what is the material perlite and can I mix it with other materials.

A. The sphagnum moss we handle and write about is indeed sterile and processed. Milled sphagnum moss is a medium used for seeding and vegatative propagation and also can be a substitute for peat moss in mixes. It has the capacity of preventing fungi which produces damp-off in young seedlings. This is why many seedsmen recommend its use. It is available commercially to people in most places.

The moss you mention that you collect from the bogs is probably excellent for the purpose you have used it. However, I would not use this since it is unsterilized in any potting mix.

Perlite is produced by subjecting obsidian to intense heat and takes the place of coarse gritty sand for the purpose of aeration. It has no particular food value and would be neutral.

Q. Dear Anne... Enclosed is a plant with blemished leaves. I'm sending for your opinion. I'm plagued with this condition off and on. Local opinions are too much water, a virus and some say fertilizer burn. I have discarded many plants. Condition is only on outer mature leaves and does not seem to affect growing, blossoming, or propagating. I shall list my growing methods.

A. I received your package, which I note was so

costly, sent air mail and special delivery along with your 6 page letter. I have examined your plant thoroughly and to the best of my knowledge the leaves seem rather pale and lack vigorous growth. It does not have the appearance of any disease. Please understand however, we have no facilities here at the greenhouses for laboratory examination to spot any specific ailment. Commercial growers, too, must avail themselves of lab techniques when problems arise. Inquiry at the closest university in your area or a call to your agricultural extension service is possibly the best place to get information. Many have soil testing services.

I read with interest in great detail your soil mixture, etc. However you did not mention what the pH tested. I fear there may be an improper blending of materials. There's actually no way of telling except to have your soil analyzed. We have found over 30 years experience that soil that tests about 6.4 gives us the most satisfactory growth, using a plant food with the analysis of 12-36-14 complements our soil for good, even sturdy growth. Your mention of at least 4 types of fertilizers that you rotate I feel is very unnecessary. One good fertilizer with the proper analysis that is used in a very small proportion at every watering is all that is necessary.

READERS TIPS

- TIP NO. 1...Dear Anne...I find when a healthy blooming plant begins to get droopy leaves which is not caused by improper watering I go on the lookout for soil mealy bugs. At first they are almost impossible to detect. Examination of the roots may not reveal themselves to someone who has never seen them before, expecially if they are newly hatched. I have had success with a dose of systemic and find it a good precaution when in doubt.
- TIP NO. 2... I find small plastic 3½ oz. Dixie cups are excellent for starting cuttings or for small plants, as are styrofoam coffee cups.
- TIP NO. 3... I have found ground clay is great for rooting leaves and for breaking up a heavy soil mix. It's acid on the pH scale and is really speedy for producing plantlets in record time when combined half and half with vermiculite. I water the leaves and plantlets, (before separating) with ¼ strength solution with any good fish emulsion fertilizer (alkaline). This material absorbs and will make your rooting medium very heavy, so one must consider this.
- TIP NO. 4... I live in a basement apartment that is damp the year round and was plagued with mil-

dew until I started being on the watch for it. Whenever I water my plants I check the undersides of the flowers. This is where mildew usually starts. If I detect the beginnings of it I remove the flower to avoid contamination to the rest of the plants. I found this effectively controlled my mildew problem. One word of caution: Be certain to wash your hands before handling the rest of the plants. I also keep a fan running during the day to keep the air circulating.

NO APOLOGY IS NEEDED

"I don't believe my eyes, but it's true! The demand for my Parson's Series is far above what I expected or planned for when I put my ad in the African Violet Magazine. Already I am sold out. I cannot fill all the orders I have received. This is very pleasing to me to see such a demand. However, I am disappointed that I cannot supply that great a number of plants."

This is the beginning of a letter from the Rev. Charles Blades, originator of The Parson's Series,

concerning the predicament he's in.

The Rev. Blades, who is pastor of a Kansas City church, explained that "first and foremost I am a minister of The Good News. I hope violet lovers will understand when I say that at the present I do not feel that I will enlarge my setup."

The Parsons Series is also being handled by David Buttram of Independence, MO, and Sim T. Holmes of Beaver, PA, both of whom carry ads in

The African Violet Magazine.

IN MEMORIAM

Hebert D. Warner

Herbert David Warner, 94, AVSA Life Member, died July 20 at a hospital in Tuscaloosa, Ala., after an illness of several months. He was the father of Joan Van Zele, former AVSA Awards Chairman. Before his death Mr. Warner was AVSA' oldest living Life Member.

Mother Dies

We have just learned that Catherine Hawley's mother passed away July 11. She was in her 80's. Mrs. Hawley is one of AVSA's newest directors and will serve until the conclusion of the 1978 convention. She is also editor of the Ohio Newsletter.

The officers and board of directors and other AVSA members extend their deepest sympathy to both Mrs. Van Zele and Mrs. Hawley.



GETS AWARD — Mrs. C. Hugh (Nell) Heard of 5837-A East University, Dallas, Texas was presented with an honorary membership in the First African Violet Club of Dallas and named an outstanding member for her generous and unselfish service in the club and among African violet growers. In presenting the award to Mrs. Heard, Mrs. L. T. Grinstead, club president, (standing) called attention to the many trophies won by Mrs. Heard, her work as an African violet judge when called upon, and her willingness to help AV growers and novices. The award was a handpainted plaque done by Mrs. Rudolph Barnes, another club member.

Rebates Are Back

Mrs. John (Amy) Lackner Membership & Promotion Chairman 580 E. Co. Rd. B-2 Little Canada, NM 55117

A new supply of culture folders with the \$1 rebate is again available. These are the same colorful, informative and expensive folders as the AVSA imprint folders you receive FREE for your shows and hand out prudently and judiciously only to persons showing a genuine interest in African violets and our society.

Affiliates, commercial and individual members may purchase the "HOW TO GROW AFRICAN VIOLETS" culture folders, with a blank space instead of the AVSA imprint, by sending check with

order to the Knoxville office.

Order packets of approximately 90 folders postpaid for \$2; 450 for \$9; or 900 for \$17. This is how it works. At the end of the fiscal year, a rebate or commission of \$1 will be paid for each NEW membership application received. This offer does not apply for renewal memberships.

Any persons, organization or commercial who purchases the culture folders will receive the rebate if their name and address is stamped, printed or plainly written in the blank space which is the back of the membership application blank.

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111 Mary D (Maas) Autumn Russet 1777 (Granger) Creekside Moonbeam (Bea Mills) 109 107 Richter's Step Up 2458 (Richter) Softique 1957 (Richter) Emperor 1507 (R. J. Taylor) 105 105 101

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98 Starshine 2349 (Granger) Chanticleer 1386 (Granger) Clipper 1724 (Lyon) White Madonna 670 (Granger) Silver Celebration 2083 (Tinari) 95 95 95 94 90 90

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88 William Bruce 2131 (E. Fisher) Blooming Fool 1473 (Richter) 86 86 Dazzling Deceiver 1865 (Lyon) Granger's Peppermint 2227 (Granger) Spring Deb 2348 (Granger) Lisa (Lyon) 83 83

80

Granger's Festival 2224 (Granger) 76 76 Rhapsodie Ophelia (Holtkamp) Coral Cascade 2463 (Lyon) 74 Lyndy Lou 2170 (Rienhardt) 74 73 Magnifica 1643 (Lyon)

73 72 Richter's Charm Song 1137 (Richter) Wisteria 2056 (Tinari)

71 Granger's Blue Fashionaire 2568 (Granger) Granger's Pinks a Poppin 2576 (Granger) 71 68 Granger's Artic Mist 2566 (Granger) 68

Granger Garden's Snow Ballet 1219 (Granger) Granger Garden's Shag 1087 (Granger)

Dora Baker 2084 (V. Lorenzen) Grace Foote 2327 (Lyon) 67 66 Jingle Bells (Richter)
Daisy Doll (Lyon)
Granger's Musetta 2575 (Granger) 65 62 62

Darcie 2326 (Lyon) Granger's Red Flair 2218 (Granger) 61 61

61 Rhapsodie Candy (Holtkamp) 61

Tina (Maas) Black Cherry (Lyon) 59 59 Granger's Swiss Ballet 2579 (Granger) 59 58 58

Jennifer 2006 (Tinari)
Juliana 2341 (Granger)
Sweet Pixie (Swift) 58 57 57 Rhapsodie Patricia (Holtkamp) Floral Fantasy 1986 (Lyon) Rhapsodie Neptune (Holtkamp) 56 Alakazam 1723 (Lyon)

Violet Trail 2468 (Lyon) Blue Boy 41 (Armacost & Royston)

56 55 55 Dancer (Richter) 54 54 54 54 Bandwagon (Granger) Coppertips (Granger)
Rebecca 2346 (Granger)
Royalaire 2023 (Granger)
Like Wow Sport (Lyon)
Orion 2069 (Tonkadale)

54 53 52 52 Granger's Blue Flair 2569 (Granger) Granger's Serenity 2578 (Grangers)

51 Duet (Richter) Granger's Venetian Lace 2580 (Granger) 51 Vern's Delight 2271 (V. Lorenzen)

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Mrs. Robert W. Thompson, 2125 Shadow Mountain Pl., Las Vegas 89108

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*Mrs. Glenn B. Hudson, 761 Belvidere Ave., Westfield 07090

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Mrs. William Hutchison, Bernalillo 87994

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- Mr. Ronald J. Ferguson, 161-04 Jewel Ave., Flushing 11365
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- Mrs. Charles Griswold, 84 Rogers Ave., Lockport 14094
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- Miss Sandra Myszka, 97-05 69th Ave., Forest Hills 11375
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- Mrs. William Otten, 46-25 247th St., Douglaston 11363
- Mrs. Kathleen Pace, 32-05 158th St., Flushing 11358
- Mrs. Gail Puskas, 12 Clay Ln., Levittown 11756
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Miss Jeannine Achauer, 7818 W. Lynman Ct., Milwaukee 53222

Miss Jeannette Achauer, 7818 W. Lyman Ct., Milwaukee 53222

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Mrs. Alfred Alf, 1133 Elm St., Beloit 53511

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Mrs. Edward Rice, 1334 Lang Rd., Oconomowoc 53066

Mrs. John F. Roe, 4417 Boulder Terrace, Madison

Mr. Fred Scudder, 1929 Walton Ln., Beloit 53511

Mrs. Fred Scudder, 1929 Walton Lane, Beloit 53511

Mrs. William A. Wall, 4742 Lafayette Dr., Madison 53705

Eileen Peer Top Winner At Illinois Show



BEST IN SHOW

Metropolitan AVS (Peoria) was host for the Illinois annual convention and show where members exhibited many beautiful plants and artistic designs. An excellent educational exhibit showed materials for growing and helps on culture. Many visitors viewed the show. The commercial room was busy.

Don Wilson, Roachdale, Indiana, speaker at the first and tenth anniversary meetings, was the speaker for this 20th anniversary program. He related experiences in his greenhouse with delightful witty humor.

Mrs. June Reed, president, presided at the Sunday luncheon where officers were elected and installed by Mrs. P. G. Wolstenholm. Entertainment was provided by the Ladies Kitchen Band of Bushnell.

Mattie Owings, Awards Chairman, presented many awards. Special award winners were: Eileen Peer, best in show, 'Candy', gold rosette for best collection 'Delft Imperial', 'Silver Celebration', 'Blue Tempest', tricolor in horticulture, 'Cindy', and the Magill Cup for the preceding plants plus 'Veronica'; Dorothy Schroeder, sweepstakes; Thelma Bangert, miniature sweepstakes; Elain Gordon, tricolor in design divison with "Violets by the Brook".

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Welcome to three new Life Members!

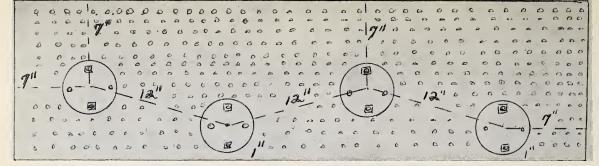
They are Everett T. Reed, P. O. Box 825, Enid, OK 737-1, who became a Life Member June 11, Miss Jessica M. Schultz, 2251 Berks Road, Lansdale, PA 19446 whose membership was conferred upon her on June 20, and Mrs. Walter Hunt, 5-A Ohio Drive, Whiting, NJ 08759, who took out a Life membership on Sept. 9.

Congratulations are extended to these new Life Members by Miss Edith Peterson, AVSA president.

Daffodil Show

The 42nd annual Daffodil Show of The Garden Club of Virginia will be sponsored by The Garden Club of the Northern Neck, and will be held at the Rappahannock Community College in Warsaw, VA.

The show begins Saturday April 10, 1976 at 3 p.m. with awards being presented by the president of the Garden Club of Virginia, Mrs. John D. Varner, at 3:30 p.m. Closing time is 8 p.m. On Sunday, April 11, 1976, hours will be 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



No. 1. Heavy peg board used to carry plants. This side up.

Mass Transportation and the Energy Shortage

Mrs. Jess Stern 63 Arundel Place Clayton, MO

I remember the first AVSA Show I entered: How hard I worked on culture and grooming! But equally difficult was packing and carrying the plants to the Show. There were eight of them: eight bulky boxes, eight trips from the house to the car, the same from the parking lot to the exhibit hall, and then afterward, the whole drag again. Talk about energy shortage and mass transportation problems! There must be an easier way!

This is how I now carry four 12" plants at once: You will need heavy peg board, 3/8" thick, 48" long, 13" wide, 4 rigid strong plastic flower pots, the same size as those you plan to carry, (mine are 4") 8 bolts the same thickness as the pegboard holes, and 3/4" long, with nuts larger than the drainage holes in the plastic flower pots.

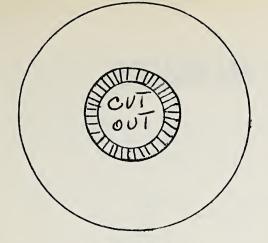
Begin by placing the first plastic pot so that its center is 7" inside the back edge and the side edge of your pegboard. Align two drainage holes of the flower pot with two of the pegboard holes, and bolt them firmly together; choose holes opposite each other in the pot for greatest stability. The second flower pot should be placed 1" from the front edge of the pegboard, its center and the center of the first should be 12" apart. The third flower pot should be on a line with the first, and its center should be 12" from the center of the second. The fourth pot should be in line with the second and its center should be 12" from the center of the third pot. If you have done this correctly there should be 7" to the edge of the pegboard from your fourth pot. Each pot should be anchored firmly onto the pegboard. (See illustra-

When you put your plants into the carrier none of the plants should touch each other, and no leaves should extend past the protection of the board, except at the front edge. However, before

you try to carry your precious plants, practice using the "thing." Place its center on your shoulder - I use my left - the 7" margin toward your body. Hold the board with your left hand, your right hand ready if necessary to hold it steady, but also free if needed to open a door, or grasp a stair rail. Put some cans of food into the carrier to become accustomed to the weight of your plants. Then try sliding the carrier from your shoulder to the back seat of your car. Be sure that the 7" margin is against the back of the seat. You must either turn your body to do this or use the top of the car to turn the board, so that the leaves of your plants will not touch the back or sides of the car. If you have a station wagon or want to use the car trunk, place the carrier in the direction of the length of the car, and use a wedge to hold it stationary. Or you could add 6" to the front width of the pegboard.

I have sometimes used two of these carriers, resting the second on back of the front seat between the headrests, and suspended at right angles to the first board, with its end on the back window ledge. The length of my car is exactly right for the length of the pegboard, and it rests firmly with no sag in the middle. Test yours carefully if you want to do this. I also use a brace to hold the board steady in case of a quick stop, by sliding a Phillip screwdriver thru the pegboard holes, one in front of the seat and one to the back of it.

Now you are ready to go to the Show. If you have plant supports use them on the carrier pots. If you have none, make some from a circle of cardboard or a flexible plastic lid from an ice cream container, ½ gallon size or commercial size cottage cheese. Ask at a bakery or cafeteria for 7" - 8" plastic lids. Mark around the top of your flower pot on the center of your cardboard or lid.



No. 2 Plastic lid

Mark another circle 1" inside. Remove the center from the smaller circle. Cut from the inner circle you have drawn to the outer at ½" intervals. (See illustration.) Slide this from the bottom up onto the plant pot so that the leaves are supported. If you need to protect them from rain or cold, use part of a plastic cleaners bag, about 1/3 will do. Make a knot, or tape together one end, cover plant and tuck into carrier pot. Do not have too much tuck-in or plant will not be secure.

Only once has my carrier failed me — or perhaps I failed it? I slipped in the snow and we all landed in the cold white stuff!

Atlanta Convention TOURS

Lloyd Lyn McArthur Tour Chairman

Tours for your 1976 Convention in Atlanta have been arranged for your enjoyment. They include options of an exciting evening at the new Midnight Sun Dinner Theater on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, where the food is as special as the stars appearing in their productions. On Wednesday, you'll have an option of either (1) an all day tour to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's retreat at Warm Springs, Georgia, and a tour of Callaway Gardens, 2500 acreas of wild flowers, shrubs and trees, and fantastic greenhouses or (2) the Southern Heritage Tour which includes the beautiful and historic Swan House, Governor's Mansion, lunch at Anthony's, and Bulloch Hall.

The Georgia State Garden Club recently earned the civic development medal for the most outstanding project in the nation at the May 1975 convention of the National Council of State Garden Clubs for their energetic conservation and beautification of the 22 acreas of grounds surrounding Swan House and the Tullie Smith House. Old gardens of the original estate were restored and are being maintained and new gardens were created and Swan Woods was established as a place for ecological study and exploration. (Did you know that not only was the AVSA founded in Georgia, but the whole garden club movement began in Georgia when the Ladies Garden Club was organized in Athens, Georgia, in 1892?)

On Thursday, two half-day tours (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) and one all-day tour are options. The morning tour includes the Cyclorama, a view of the city, a stop at the Atlanta Memorial Arts Center, a view of the Swan House, and a stop at the Governor's Mansion, and a ride through Atlanta's oldest and most exclusive residential area which should be ablaze with color in late April. The afternoon tour goes to Stone Mountain Park and includes a stop at Memorial Hall for a birds-eye view of the carving on the mountain, a visit through the authentic Plantation with 19 fascinating buildings including the Big House, corn crib, slave cabin, cook house, and gardens. Before leaving Stone Mountain Park you'll have an opportunity of riding a real Swiss cable car to the top of the mountain for a view of Atlanta and its environs and an opportunity to see the mountain's flora.

Thursday's all day tour, "Gone With The Wind", takes you to the Atlanta before General Sherman decided to build his little bonfire. While most of what existed in Atlanta before the Civil War was turned into kindling, Covington and Madison retained many of the old homes and churches through the intercession of one of the General's friends. These have been restored, and it is a visit to these that makes "Gone With the Wind" an exciting tour even for local Georgians.

There is a Friday morning tour; but let's keep something as a surprise. This was only meant to be a brief summary of the points you'll see when you come to Atlanta next April.

The weather should be great; the flowers and gardens in their prime. The dining will be fine. And the people — well, y'all know the South is known for its hospitality. All details for the tours will appear in your January AVSA magazine. YAWL plan now to come and see us — you hear?

Isolation Ward

By all means set aside a little area of your 'isolation ward' for newly purchased African violet plants or gifts from friends. No matter how reliable the source, plants should be isolated at least three weeks. Avoid bringing pests into your collection and you will avoid having to use the sprays later on.

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Convention City . . . Atlanta Waits With Open Arms

Mrs. Roy C. Smith Convention Publicity Chairman

Atlanta awaits the 1976 AVSA Convention and Show with open arms!

It is only fitting that we meet in Atlanta for this great celebration since AVSA was organized there in 1946...and the Dixie African Violet Society, which will host the 1976 convention, was

organized there in 1956.

It'll be great fun meeting some of the charter members of both organizations. Then, too, there'll be the excitement of renewing acquaintance with many African violet friends made over the years.

If this is to be your first convention, then look forward to making a lot of new friends because AVSAers are mighty friendly people.

Great plans are being made for your pleasure at the convention. So start grooming your plants

for the GREAT show! Of course, you don't have to enter plants to attend — just come!

Atlanta is an historical city. At first an Indian village known as "Standing Peachtree", from which Atlanta's famous Peachtree Street derived its name, the city was incorporated in 1847 and during the War Between the States was laid waste by General Sherman and his invading army in November 1864. But Sherman's army was hardly out of sight before Atlanta's surviving civilian population came swarming back to the smoldering ruins of their little city and commenced rebuilding.

After General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Atlanta became the headquarters of the Reconstruction government. The woes and indignities suffered by Georgia under this Reconstruction government are vividly portrayed in "Gone With the Wind."

Today Atlanta is a metropolitan center with a population of 1¼ million and is a leader of business, industry, education and culture in the South.

The tours that are being planned by Loyd McArthur, tour chairman, will take you to many of Atlanta's historical spots as well as many of the city's interesting and most beautiful centers.

So y'all start planning now to attend the 1976

convention show.

SPARKLE PLENTY by Annalee's



(Photo by Frank Tinari, Jr.)



FREEDOM RED by Tinari



Time again to list all Affiliates and their Presidents! Are your club and president listed? Is it correct? If not, please drop me a card with the correction. This is the reason I must have the officers list each year with the expiration date of each officer's term of office. This all means another year almost at an end and I'm sure we all wonder where it has gone. Shows are almost all over, only a few Fall ones remain. The holidays are here again, the Boston convention long in the past.

Now it's time to plan the coming year of 1976. If we have made mistakes this year, let's all plan now to correct the errors next year. Wouldn't it be great if we did everything as near perfect as we

could?

I was somewhat surprised to find so many clubs with many years of affiliation, late with their dues and officers' lists. It makes me feel that the outgoing officers, who do their jobs more or less automatically, forget the new officers might need a few "Helpful HInts". How nice it would be to give a brief listing of the most important duties to the incoming officers. I think this should be a willing gesture, a must, and one of the nicest things that the retiring officer could leave behind. I do get many letters that state, "I don't know exactly what is expected of me, no one has ever told me, and I don't know when to take care of these different obligations."

Sooo, let us agree that the new year will be better. The Treasurer will be informed to make a permanent record to send in the Club Dues early. December is a fine month for this. Mrs. Bell in the Knoxville office and your Affiliate Chairman, Helen Freie, will appreciate it more than you

know. Your Secretary or AVSA representative should get the blank officer sheet, as soon as it comes with your new charter after your dues are paid, to be filled in as soon as elections have taken place. How great this will be for me!

This list of new officers is to be sent to me – not the Editor! We publish these new officers once a year – in the November Magazine when we list

the AVSA Affiliates.

Another thing I want to say to ALL NEW GROUPS that are planning to affiliate. If you will send first for your organizing packet, you will find enclosed the correct procedure to follow and a list marked with red ink indicating the information I must have. Send this back to me completely filled in and you will be affiliated immediately upon receipt of your dues.

I tried to make you all happy this year, trying not to have your clubs go delinquent, and as a result threw myself out of line and time. The result? I burned the midnight oil to meet my deadline. If your club is disbanding will you please let me know and give me the reason. This saves much time for me and postage. Speaking of postage, you will never realize how much Uncle Sam got from this affiliate office trying to run down too much information in too short a time. Please don't let this happen to me again. PAY EARLY!!! Send for your AVSA Collection Awards early and don't forget to enclose two schedules with your request, six weeks to two months is not to early, this saves last minute worries.

NEW CLUBS

This month we welcome into affiliation these eight new clubs:

ATCHAFALAVA VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Mrs. Barbara Ghirardi, President Morgan City, LA 70380

COVINGTON AVS Mrs. Oreatte Hall, President Gantt, AL 36068

THE FIRST AVS OF DENTON
Mrs. Tom W. Davis, President
211 Woodland Ave., Denton, TX 76201

GALA AVC

Mrs. Freda Anderson, President 2300 N.E. Arthur St., Minneapolis, MN 55418

INNER CITY AVS Mrs. Virginia Hamilton, President 5928a Julian St., St. Louis, MO 63112 SWEETWATER AVS Mrs. Pasquale Grasso, President 103 Schneider Ln., Hauppauge, NY 11787

VIOLET HOBBYIST SOCIETY OF BATON ROUGE

Mrs. William C. Monroe, President 7741 Amesbury Circle, Baton Rouge, LA

THE WHITEHAVEN AVS Mrs. Lynnette Conroy, President 1110 Craft Rd., Memphis, TN 38116

MID-DAY VIOLETEERS Mrs. David Stilp, President 746 Harding St., Oconomowoc, WI 53006 This month I wish to announce that:

The Frayser AVS has changed its name to BLUFF CITY AVC, Memphis, TN. Mrs. W. A. Fowler, President

And now, to all of you and yours a very, very happy holiday season.

Keep Plants Clean

The violet, like all plants, breathes through its leaves. Keep them dust free. This can be done by a shower in the kitchen sink. Avoid wetting the blossoms and the crown of the plant and washing the soil away. Allow to dry in subdued light till dry before returning to window light. They can be returned to fluorescent light right away.



YOUR LIBRARY

Mrs. M. E. Garner 1010 Edgewood S.E. North Canton, Ohio 44720

Have you ever been so inspired by the obvious results of good organization, good grooming and the horticultural perfection of a friend's African violets that you could hardly wait to get home and start to work on your own? There is something contagious about the enthusiasm for and loving care they give their plants. Some people are capable of showing this and most important sharing it with others, and you respect them for it.

With the preparation and presentation of the AVSA library slide programs, we are offering this sharing to all of you. This is offered to a great many people and for that reason does require some care and consideration of the property involved. Some very helpful suggestions are offered for the use of slide programs:

1. When you receive your slide program — please carefully unpack it, so you will be able to return it in the same type of wrapping in which you receive it. RETURN FIRST CLASS MAIL!

2. TO THE PROJECTIONIST. Study the commentary. You may want to add more of your own information for some slides and delete commentary on others. This will help you to know the time necessary to present the program. Don't rush it!

3. Check the slides with the commentary before the time comes to present the program. In

other words, have a rehearsal. This will help you know if there are any out of place, missing or damaged slides. Check your projector for good operation.

4. Please make notes of any such findings on the comment sheet enclosed with each program. If you need more room for comments, take another paper and clip it to the first. Use the name of slide program and the number found on each slide that should be checked by us. This is one purpose for the comment sheet. It is important because it is not possible to check each slide in each program when they come back to the Knoxville office, but we do check every comment sheet.

Your comments are our communication with each one who uses the programs and we want very much to keep the slide programs in good order so others may enjoy them too. Damaged slide mountings can be replaced, but damaged slide film cannot. The less time that must be spent on repairing the damaged slide programs, the more time we will have to make new programs. Remember — new ideas are always welcome.

Keeping the true meaning of the coming Christmas season in mind, let us all aim to share more individual talents and treasures with others and with AVSA that offers us so much in return.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Blossoms & Buds ARE A NOVELTY

(Photos by Schroeder)

AMAZEMENT A new hybrid by Tonkadale



CHARMGLOW A new hybrid by Granger Gardens

Pinks & Unusuals

(Photos by Schroeder)



KATY DID by C. Hawley



PINK VICEROY by Granger Gardens



A Foote on the Violet Path

By Grace Foote

Y'know the AVSA Convention and Show in Atlanta, Ga., is going to be something special in 1976 - and certainly will be of great importance to AVSA. For here's where the African Violet Society of America, Inc., was born in 1946. Its humble beginning was the result of an African violet show held at the H. G. Hastings Mitchell Street address in Atlanta. The show had been advertised locally and tiny ads placed in national gardening magazines. Inquiries were received by the local committee from 29 states. Some 8,000 and even probably 10,000 persons saw the show the first day. More than 200 persons had entered their plants. So great was the enthusiasm that after the show closed the first day, the exhibitors and judges, who were from all over the country, met to discuss plans for organizing a national organization. AVSA was formed that same night with 250 charter members. Charles J. Hudson, Jr., of Atlanta, who had served as show chairman for the Atlanta show, was named temporary AVSA chairman. Mrs. Ferne Kellar of Des Moines, Iowa, became the first president when AVSA was incorporated in June 1947. In October 1947 Atlanta had the added distinction of hosting the first official AVSA show and convention. Now here it's 30 years later and Atlanta will again host another AVSA show and convention. So, you see why it's important that we have a record crowd at Atlanta. I know some clubs and individuals, who are already setting aside a little money here and there to pay for their convention expenses. How about ioining this group?... The AVS of Minnesota is also getting ready to observe an anniversary in 1976. It'll be Minnesota's 25th anniversary and at the annual show this year they plan to take a look back into history and a display depicting these 25 years. Sounds great, doesn't it? ... Ellie Bogin, AVSA's "Mini-Mam", hopes that growers of miniatures will remember there's a new mini supplement, published this past summer, and will cost \$2... We understand, too, that a new Master Variety List, Volume 3, will be published in 1977 just when Adele Tretter, the compiler, wasn't able to say . . . Our finance chairman, E. H. Dixon, says he lives in Stockton, MO, in spite of the fact his address in the Life Membership list says he lives in Mission, KA... Our publications chairman, Neva Anderson, has had a request for a "Letters to the Editor" column where members may express an opinion. Anyone interested in such a column? If you are, address a comment to "Letters to the Editor" with permission to print. We'll publish only a comment or two because we only have so

much space for 'em ... Ms. Frances Young, 1400 Lorrain, Austin, TX 78703, trying to find a copy of Vol. 2, No. 1 of the African Violet Magazine to complete her club's complete file of the magazine . . . Can anyone help Mrs. Lawrence W. Gipe of N 8905 Country Homes Blvd., Spokane, WA 99128? She has been trying unsuccessfully to find leaves of 'Rosy Ruffles', 'Myrtle' and 'Pink Beauty'. If you have any or know where she can get 'em, let her know...Did you know that Texas has a state council of African violet growers now? It was organized this summer and was named the Lone Star AV Council, Y'know who's president? Sandy Leary of Austin!... High school student Dianne Greene, P. O. Box 1013, Rutherfordton, NC 28139 trying to find some AVSA pen pals with whom she can correspond and maybe exchange ideas and facts on African violets. Drop her a line . . . Interest in African violets is growing more and more all over the country. In the Southern Living Magazine, published in Birmingham, Ala., was a two-page spread with beautiful color pictures of 'Silver Champion', 'Giant Blue Crest', 'Peak of Pink', 'Touche', 'Brigadoon' and 'Delft Imperial'. The article was titled, "African Violets Bloom and Bloom" and said "given the proper growing conditions and care, African violets will bloom prolifically almost every day of the year" ... Mrs. C. Edwin Briggs of Corpus Christi, founder of the Corpus Christi AVS and later organizer of the Gulf Breeze AVC, is being kept busy answering inquiries about new AV chapters forming in Texas the latest being from Kingsville and Brownsville. She referred them to Helen Freie, Affiliate chairman. Mrs. B. has been raising violets the past 12 years during which time she's gotten many, many persons interested in their culture ... We're delighted to learn how many Affiliates are reporting 100% AVSA membership - the latest being First Austin AVS of Austin, TX, with 38 members and the Tallahassee AVS of Tallahassee, FL, which is also 100% Dixie . . . AVSA is and always has been proud of her violet growers and takes special pride in 76-year-young Max Maas, who has been growing violets some 50 years and has hybridized such lovelies as 'Candy Lips', 'Diane's Delight', 'Tina', 'Frankie' and many others. His greenhouses are known as Hilton Dahlia Farm in Springfield, NJ. He works full time in the greenhouses but takes a nap in the afternoon, because, as he explained, "My dog Beau gets tired." Not too long ago when an AVSA friend saw him he was a little tired from cutting down a tree.

CROSS YOUR I's . . . and DOT YOUR T's . . .

Mrs. W. F. Anderson 360 Tulip Drive St. Louis, MO 63119

It is very important in our violet activities to choose the proper words when writing a show schedule. For affiliate shows, schedule committees try to prepare schedules as specific as possible so that no misunderstandings arise. Pitfalls are avoided when schedule writers, show committees, exhibitors and judges understand definitions and proper classification.

It is helpful when one member of the schedule committee is appointed to interpret and advise the classification committee and answer exhibitor's questions. The judges also must be advised of any

decisions for clarification of a schedule.

If the schedule has a class for dish gardens, the exhibitor should use an open (dish) container without a cover. In a class for terrariums, only a transparent container which is covered should be used. In either dish gardens or terrariums, the floral material should be planted in suitable potting mix, arranged in an interesting design with or without accessories as stated in rules of the schedule. These classes belong in the design division of the show. They should be separate classes. If space is limited in a small show, one class might be subdivided into subclasses (a) and (b).

If the schedule has a class for a plant (one) in an unusual, novel or decorative container, the exhibitor should know that it is the specimen plant that will be judged with five less points each for leaf pattern, floriferousness and condition while relation to container receives 15 points. This is not a design entry. It is an entry in the horticulture division.

The rules and regulations are printed in the schedule which is the law of the show. If the schedule says "planted in a shell", do not expect a high rating for a planting in some other type of container with a shell accessory used.

If the schedule specifies size and color of background for an arrangement, plan your entry accordingly. In the rules the schedule may permit alteration of the background by draping to supply a color or texture which will enhance your design. If in doubt, check with the schedule advisor.

Study the schedule very carefully. A casual reading is not enough. To all schedule writers — words are important. Mean what you say. Be sure of

definitions. Make all rules very clear. A well written schedule helps entry and classification committees, the exhibitors, the judges, and contributes to the success of the show.

Benomyl -Small Dilutions

Arnetta Bjornson 1800 N. E. 17th Ave., Apt. 4 Portland, OR 97212

At the Boston convention workshop on "Diseases, Insects and Insecticides" our speaker mentioned that benomyl might be used on African violets for powdery mildew and botrytis but he only knew the large orchard dilutions, so here are the smaller dilutions...

3 level teaspoons per 2 gallons of water; or 1½ level teaspoons per 1 gallon of water; or 3/8 level teaspoon per quart of water.

Benomyl is methyl 1-(butylcarbamoyl)-2-benzimidazolecarbamate.

This systemic fungicide is available under the trade name Benlate by duPont or may be listed on labels packaged by other chemical firms as benomyl. It is a highly active fungicide with systemic, residual and curative properties, also ovacidal for mites, of low order of toxicity to plants and animals. It is especially effective for powdery mildew, botrytis and rot caused by

fungus. This material is absorbed by the plant and has a systemic action for a brief period.

In the outdoor flower garden it is used for the control of powdery mildew, black spot, and botrytis grey mold on roses, flowers and ornamentals. For outdoor use applications begin when the disease first appears. Shake sprayer often to insure even mixture of the spray. Repeat applications at 10 to 14 day intervals during the growing season, shortening the intervals between applications during humid or rainy weather.

REMEMBER - there are no manufacturers' recommendations for the use of benomyl on African violets, so try it, if you want, on a plant or twonot on your entire collection. Mix in small quantities as needed. Do not store mixed spray for later

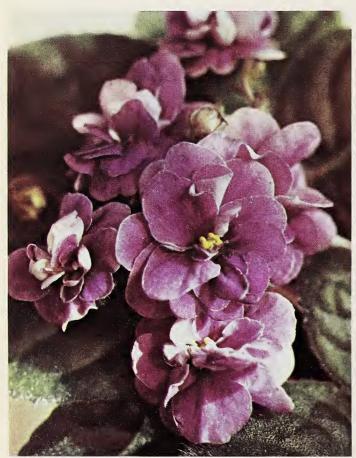
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MYSTIC Hybridized by Allie Stramondale



PURPLE MOON by Tinari

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We hope that you enjoy and find useful the listing of our AVSA affiliates and their presidents. If a president's name and address are missing it is only for the reason that it did not come to me in time. The deadline is July 1 of each year. Please remember to send the officer and information sheet sent to you with your charters in to me each year.

Those groups with an asterisk (*) opposite the affiliate's name designates 100% AVSA membership as reported by the affiliate. This MUST be reported EACH YEAR to have the honor of this listing.

It is important that you watch my column for it is the only way I have of speaking to you all at one time. And the show clubs should pay particular attention to Mrs. Carey's column in order to be absolutely up-to-date.

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